श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० अंजैया) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) चूंकि यह मामला राज्य सरकारों के कार्य क्षेत्राधिकार में आता है, इसलिए उन्हें अनुदेश जारी करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Performance of Steel Industry

1094. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of the steel industry in the country is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken so far by Government to save the vital and basic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) There is scope for improvement in the performance of the steel industry in the country. The predominant features of the integrated steel plants in the country is their high cost of production due to low capacity utilisation, high energy consumption, deterioration in the quality of raw materials, inadequate power supply from public utilities, obsolete technology, ageing of equipment, high labour component and the need to bring about a change in the work culture in the industry.

The installed capacity in the mini steel sector is also under-utilised; in the last 2-3 years, the average capacity utilisation of the working electric arc furnace units has been between 65—75 per cent largely on account of inadequate availability of power.

(c) Schemes have been drawn up for better maintenance of public sector steel plants, their modernisation and for removal of bottlenecks. Efforts are also being made to ensure cordial industrial relations and to inculcate a new work culture in the steel fraternity. The various schemes for plant modernisation will help in providing better blending of raw materials, reduction in energy consumption, improved productivity and better capacity utilisation—all measures which should enable the Indian steel industry to contain the rising costs of production.

Steps continue to be taken to ensure adequate availability of raw material and power to the mini steel sector and the re-rollers.

Hours of work for industrial workers

1095. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniformity in the hours of work for the industrial workers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring about uniformity in the hours of work for all industrial workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) Hours of work have been specified in the respective labour laws concerning workers in factories, mines, plantations, transport undertakings, shops and commercial establishments, etc. The normal working hours are 8 hours a day and 48 hours in a week.

Indian Labour Conference in Delhi

1096. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Labour Conference has been called in